

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 721

By Eldridge

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Jeff Drake upon being named the 2017 Master Logger of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who, through their extraordinary efforts, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy individual is Jeff Drake, whom the Tennessee Forestry Association has chosen as its 2017 Master Logger of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drake is the owner and driving force behind Jeff Drake Logging Company, an entity that is synonymous with meeting all of West Tennessee's forestry needs; and

WHEREAS, specializing in harvesting hardwood, Jeff Drake Logging Company performs all types of harvests, from clear cuts to selective cuts and thinning on both pine and hardwood stands; and

WHEREAS, customer satisfaction is a core tenet of Mr. Drake's business; he will often personally meet with clients before and after a job is complete in order to ensure that a finished project has met all expectations precisely as desired; and

WHEREAS, environmentalism also has an important hand in guiding Jeff Drake's company, as he begins almost every job by inspecting a project site with his foreman, taking note of every tract, skid trail, landing, and haul-out road in order to avoid crossing creeks and drains as much as possible, thus minimizing environmental impact; and

WHEREAS, safety is always a concern for Mr. Drake and his company; he meets with all of his employees once a week to go over safety and training materials to ensure that no one is

hurt on the job. He also goes to great lengths to ensure that his company's equipment always meets industry standards for maintenance and cleanliness; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drake maintains a company that consists of seventeen employees, two logging crews, two knuckle booms, four skidders, two cutters, a bulldozer, three trucks, and nine contract trucks; and

WHEREAS, his company averages sixty-five loads of lumber a week and hauls to more than fifteen delivery points. He produces roughly eleven million board feet a year; and

WHEREAS, prior to operating Jeff Drake Logging Company, Mr. Drake got his start in the industry working at his grandfather's sawmill as a teenager. He later became co-owner of a small logging crew for two years before taking over a trucking company. In 1998, he decided he wanted to return to the logging industry; he bought his own small business, and the rest is history; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Drake is a proud member of the Tennessee Forestry Association and the National Hardwood Lumber Association; he is a fifth-generation logger whose whole family is involved with the business, including his wife, Amy Drake, who maintains the company's bookkeeping, and their children, Madison and Tristan; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Drake has lent his time, money, and leadership to a host of charitable causes and events, including his community's school athletic programs, LeBonheur Children's Hospital, and the Log-A-Load for Kids Golf Tournament. He hosts his own youth deer and youth duck hunts on his personal farm, and he also organizes a community pheasant hunting trip out west; and

WHEREAS, Jeff Drake has been the face of timber industries for the Jackson community and beyond, and he epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly find it appropriate to pause in their deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Jeff Drake for his dedication to the State of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Jeff Drake upon being named the 2017 Master Logger of the Year by the Tennessee Forestry Association and extend to him our best wishes for success in all his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.